

VZCZCXYZ0022
OO RUEHWEB

DE RUEHDM #0679/01 1841319
ZNR UUUUU ZZH
O 031319Z JUL 07
FM AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 3809
RHEHAAA/WHITE HOUSE WASHDC IMMEDIATE
RUEHAM/AMEMBASSY AMMAN 6922
RUEHLB/AMEMBASSY BEIRUT 4617
RUEHEG/AMEMBASSY CAIRO 3267
RUEHRH/AMEMBASSY RIYADH 7756
RUEHTV/AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV 1850
RUEHAK/AMEMBASSY ANKARA 5175
RUEHJM/AMCONSUL JERUSALEM 1382
RHMFISS/HQ USCENTCOM MACDILL AFB FL//CCPA//
INFO RUEHNC/AMEMBASSY NICOSIA 7497

UNCLAS DAMASCUS 000679

SIPDIS

SIPDIS

DEPARTMENT FOR PA, NEA/ARN, INR/IC/CD, INR/R/MR:STHIBEAULT AND
JMCCARTER, VOA NEWS CA, NEA/PPD:CBOURGEOIS, AZAIBACK, AND
AFERNANDEZ, IIP/G/NEA-SA MDAVIDSON
WHITE HOUSE FOR NSC
CENTCOM FOR CCPA

E.O. 12958; N/A

TAGS: [KMDR](#) [PREL](#) [KPAO](#) [OPRC](#) [SY](#)

SUBJECT: Syria/Denmark, Syria/Japan, Golan, Palestinian
Territories, Iraq, Lebanon, Bush/Putin (7/3)

¶1. Summary: Syrian papers on July 3 reported Foreign Minister Mouallem's meeting on July 2 with Danish Foreign Minister Per Stig Moeller, who reiterated the importance of the pivotal role Syria plays in achieving security and stability in the region, particularly supporting efforts to restore Iraq's full sovereignty, territorial integrity and national reconciliation. Talks also dealt with the latest developments in the Middle East, particularly in Iraq, Palestine and Lebanon. FM Mouallem reiterated Syria's support for efforts to hold a Palestinian dialogue aiming at realizing Palestinian unity to confront continued Israeli occupation, and at ending intra-Palestinian fighting. FM Mouallem also stressed the need to back Lebanese concord within a framework of respect for Lebanese constitutional institutions.

Papers also featured a statement by General Ali Habib, Chief of Staff of the Syria Army and Armed Forces, at a graduation ceremony held on July 2 for a group of graduate officers from the Political Military College. General Ali Habib reviewed current dangers in the region, noting that "the prevailing chaos, instability, and subservience are the result of the single power domination of decision-making centers and control of political tracks in a way that serves US interests by interfering in the affairs and countries of the region and implementing plans and programs that seek to conquer the Arab will, exploit Arab resources, and control their potentials." General Habib stressed that the colonialist US-Zionist policy in the region is today "facing a real crisis as a result of the successive failures it is suffering in Palestine, Iraq, and Lebanon."

On Syrian-Japanese relations, papers cited a statement by Japanese Foreign Minister Taro Aso on July 2 expressing satisfaction over developments in bilateral relations between Syria and Japan in the political, economic and cultural domains. During a meeting with Syria's ambassador in Tokyo, Dr. Qahtan al-Syoufi, Aso reiterated the importance of Syria as a pivotal country which has political weight in the region and a key role in helping to achieve stability and comprehensive peace in the Middle East.

End of summary.

¶2. Selected Headlines:

"The Israeli army conducts military maneuvers in the Golan"
(Independent al-Watan, 7/3)

"A graduation ceremony is held for a new batch of graduate officers of the political college under President Asad's patronage. General Habib, Chief of Staff of the Armed Forces: A dangerous stage of chaos prevails in the region due to a single-polar policy"
(Government-owned Al-Thawra, 7/3)

"Foreign Minister Mouallem confers with Danish Foreign Minister Per Stig Moeller. Moeller: Syria is concerned about security in the region" (Government-owned Al-Thawra, 7/3)

"Japanese Foreign Minister: Syria is a pivotal state in the region"
(Government-owned Al-Thawra, 7/3)

"Europeans see America as the major source of danger for peace in the region. Attacks against US forces are on the rise in Iraq"
(Government-owned Al-Thawra, 7/3)

"A hot July still at the beginning... Five US soldiers killed in one day. After Diyala, US forces take revenge in al-Diwanieh"
(Government-owned Tishreen, 7/3)

"Warnings continue of the consequences of Israeli blackmail of the Palestinian Authority. Martyrdom of Palestinian activist as Israeli assaults continue" (Government-owned Tishreen, 7/3)

"Israeli attacks continue in the West Bank and Gaza Strip"
(Government-owned Al-Thawra, 7/3)

"More than 40 Saudis fought under Fateh al-Islam. Lahoud warns against the governing team's adventures to reach the presidency"

(Government-owned Al-Ba'th, 7/3)

"Difference over the Iranian nuclear file and the missile shield persist in the Bush-Putin meeting" (Government-owned Al-Ba'th, 7/3)

13. Editorial Block Quotes:

"History Records But Has No Mercy"

Izz-al-Din al-Darwish, an editorialist in government-owned Tishreen, wrote (7/3): "Arabs' failure to act to prevent the construction of the separation wall in the West Bank, despite the ruling against the wall from the International Court of Justice, encouraged Israeli Prime Minister Ehud Olmert to propose that Europeans fund two similar walls on the borders with Lebanon and Syria...."

"The walls entrench Israel's racist policy and perpetuate its occupation.... This is how Olmert thinks, and it is in this provocative and haughty manner that he deals with Arab impotence and tries to take as much advantage of it as possible. In this, he also benefits from the positions of some Arabs, who not only keep silent on and submit to what Israel wants, but also help, in one way or another, to advance Israel's plans, justify its practices, and lay the blame on the Arab resistance and opposition."

"History, which is recording all these Arab absurdities, will have mercy on no one."

"Relinquishing Palestine and Combating its Resistance"

Nasr Shamali, a columnist in government-owned Tishreen, wrote (7/3): "The official Arab order is contributing to the attempt to bury and wipe out Palestine and Palestinians. If Palestinians raise their voices, fists, and guns to reject this burial and disappearance, the official Arab order labels them terrorists and agents for Syria and

Iran. Support for Palestine and the Palestinian people has become a big crime....

"But things will not stop at this point. The alignment process continues in the region, and it will result in the emergence of two fronts: The front of Americans and Israelis and their allies, such as the Lebanese government and its supporters, and the front of Arab and Islamic resistance, which is supported by the overwhelming majority of the Arab nation and by countries like Syria and Iran. As the resistance makes constant progress, like that which we see in Iraq in particular, and as the earth continues to shake under the feet of the rulers of Washington and their wild usurious companies, we will certainly see American and Israeli forces fighting shoulder to shoulder with the forces of their regional allies! What is so strange here? It is already happening in Iraq, and it is almost happening in Lebanon, and also in Palestine...!

"But the thing that we must realize is that these horrible and almost unbelievable phenomena indicate that the decisive round, the round of victory and salvation, is drawing nearer."

"Channels of Dialogue Must Remain Open"

Muhammad Suwwan, a commentator in government-owned Al-Ba'th, wrote (7/3): "The formation of the Palestinian emergency government was a step toward achieving security and political stability in the occupied Palestinian territories, and especially toward the removal of the stifling economic siege on the Palestinian people....

"The continuation of dialogue and contacts among Palestinian factions is an inevitable and essential option for all parties to establish one legitimate authority, one law, and one resistance weapon in all the Palestinian territories...."

"Palestine and an Inevitable Dialogue"

Khurshid Dalli, an editorialist in independent al-Watan, wrote (7/3): "Despite all the pains and wounds that the Gaza incidents have left, national dialogue remains the only way to resolve intra-Palestinian differences....

"Palestinians must be aware of the dangers of political and geographic splits..... Palestinian factions must agree on a national program, share responsibilities, set common priorities, and adopt the people's ambitions and concerns as programs and strategies...."

"Wrong Vision"

Muhammad Khayr al-Jammali, an editorialist in government-owned Al-Thawra, wrote (7/3): "President Bush has a very mistaken vision about Israel's democracy.... Israel is a racist state that, since its establishment, has pursued a policy of perpetrating racist genocide against Arabs, destroying their culture, settling on their land, killing them mercilessly, isolating them, and preventing them from interacting in their villages and areas.... Israel also excludes Eastern Jews from the influential centers of power....

"President Bush's love for Israel's democracy stems from his ignorance of the real history of Israel and the countries of the region.... This ignorance is a result of a flagrant bias toward Israel and a racist hatred toward Arabs and Muslims."

"Democracy of Massacres"

Umar Jaftali, a commentator in government-owned Tishreen, wrote (7/3): "When the American army kills 350 Iraqi citizens in Diyala in what looks like a mass killing and kills 26 others in Al-Sadr City in one day, and when President George Bush then comes to say he will make Iraq a model of democracy in the region, no sensible man can be fooled by these lies and this colonialist political charlatanism on the part of the US Administration...."

"Iraq is experiencing a real disaster as a result of the policy of President Bush and the Zionist gang in his administration...."

Corbin